

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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R 091742Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6833

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PINT, PFOR, HA

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS RECEIVING WIDE PUBLICITY

1. FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN REplete WITH HEADLINE ARTICLES ON CURRENT ACTIVITY WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF GOH. SAME SUBJECT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SECRETARY CINEAS IN HIS WEEKLY NEWS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 7.

2. TYPIFYING THIS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WAS LEAD FRONT PAGE NOUVEAU MONDE ARTICLE ON AUGUST 8 WITH HEADLINE "LES GRANDS PROJECTS DU GOUVERNEMENT EN MARCHE." STORY REVIEWS INFORMATION RELEASED BY CINEAS PREVIOUS DAY ON IDB SOUTH ROAD LOAN, FORTHCOMING ARRIVAL OF JOINT IDB-IBRD AGRICULTURAL STUDY MISSION, AID-FUNDED CONTRACT FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS TO PORT AU PRINCE STREETS AND CAP HAITIEN-MILOT ROAD IN NORTH, AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS TO HAITI. CINEAS EVEN NOTED IN THIS SAME CONTEXT ELECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SECRETARY THEARD TO PRESIDENCY OF WHO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, PLANS FOR WORLD-WIDE CONFERENCE OF FRANCOPHONE PHYSICIANS IN HAITI IN FEBRUARY 1974, AND FORTHCOMING MEETING OF FRANCOPHONE JOURNALISTS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE. VARIOUS ARTICLES IN NOUVEAU MONDE AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PLAY PAST SEVERAL DAYS TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS ON FOREIGN LOANS, USAID ROAD

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MAINTENANCE GRANT AGREEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL SURVEY MISSION,

AND EFFORTS OF SUCH GOH ENTITIES AS DDVA, ARTIBONITE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

3. WHILE FACTS OF VARIOUS ENCOURAGING STORIES BEING RELEASED ARE ESSENTIALLY CORRECT AND USUALLY REFLECT NOT MUCH MORE THAN STATUS REPORTS ON PROJECTS LONG IN PLANNING STAGE, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT GOH IS RELIEVED TO HAVE POSITIVE ACTIONS IT CAN POINT TO AS FORWARD PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC FRONT AND IS MAKING CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO PUBLICIZE GOVERNMENT'S FLURRY OF DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITY. UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN NOUVEAU MONDE AUGUST 6 (PROBABLY WRITTEN BY FINANCE SECRETARY FRANCISQUE) ADOPTS SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE TONE IN NOTING LACK THUS FAR OF MATERIAL PROGRESS IN FULFILLING PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCED POLICY OF "ECONOMIC REVOLUTION." EDITORIAL ASKS RHETORICAL QUESTION "DOES ANYONE STILL IMAGINE SINCERELY THAT A SMALL UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY SUCH AS HAITI REALLY CAN BECOME DEVELOPED WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF COUNTRIES MORE ADVANCED THAN IT?", NOTES THAT THE DAYS OF "FAIRY TALES AND MAGIC WANDS" (IN BRINGING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT) ARE PAST, AND THEN LISTS SUCCESSFUL GOH INITIATIVES IN DEVELOPMENTAL FIELD (SEE ABOVE). GOH APPARENTLY IS COUNTING ON THIS LINE TO COUNTER DISCONTENT WITH RATE OF PROGRESS AND TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM RECENT EMBARRASSMENT OF NATIONAL PALACE FIRE WITH LOSE OF MOST OF SECURITY FORCES' SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION. CORCORAN

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